

# CANTON PARK COMMISSION

## BOARD MINUTES

MARCH, 2012

The Canton Board of Park Commissioners met in regular session on Wednesday, March 14, 2012 at the Garden Center Building.

Present were; Mr. Wuyanbu Zutali, Vice President; Mr. Terry Prater, Member; and Mr. Douglas V. Perry, Director/Secretary. There were also several attendees at the meeting.

The meeting was called to order at 4:07 p. m.

The Director stated that President Black may not be able to attend the meeting as he was out of the state on business.

The first item of business was the reading of the minutes of the February 8, 2012 regular meeting. A motion was made by T. Prater to approve them as written. A second was provided by W. Zutali, and the motion then passed by unanimous vote.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

1. Old Riverside Park Issues – The Director reported that he had a call from the National Park Service that he referred to Mr. Burns of the Law Department. Mr. Burns stated that they requested some information from him and that it seems like they want to get through this quickly. Mr. Zutali asked if there was a time frame? Mr. Burns said he did not know at this time.
2. Park Brochure Development – The Director reported that the map was finely finished and he was now ready to talk to a printer.
3. Possible Dominion Easements Reifsnyder, Oak, and Martindale Parks – The Director reported that there had been movement on easement language and a communication would soon be sent to council regarding it. The Director also stated that he had not yet seen anything regarding the value of the easements.
4. Recycle/Ad Proposal – Mr. Gordon stated that he did get a drawing of a bin but he was not happy with it and had asked the company for it to be revised. He would provide the Board a copy of the new one when he gets it.
5. Possible transfer of Crenshaw Park Property to SARTA – Mr. Gordon stated that a plan was not ready as the project was on hold until a new survey of the property could be done. A copy of that survey was provided to the Board. Mr. Gordon said they would have the engineering department prepare some design for the Board's review.
6. Informal City Council Resolution regarding Nimisilla Park – There has been nothing new since the last meeting so the issue remained tabled.

7. HOF Expenses – Since Mr. Black was unable to attend the meeting the issue remained tabled.
8. Dine Proposal for Children's Rides in Park – Mr. Burns of the Law Department stated that he believed there is a way to do this project by use of a license agreement. Some details have been discussed and language could be prepared before the Board's next meeting. Mr. Dine agreed that he could work with an agreement reached by the April meeting. The issue remained tabled.
9. Proposal to create a “cut through” on Mt. Vernon Boulevard NW near Cleveland Ave to accommodate a new business on the corner – The Director stated he had checked with Traffic Engineering but there had been no new communication regarding the issue. The issue will remain tabled.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Plain Local Baseball and Softball Association requesting to use the ball fields at Covered Bridge and Oak Park for the Spring and Fall 2012 seasons, March thru October 2012.
2. Vietnam Vets Motorcycle Club requesting to use Arboretum Park on April 7, 2012 to hold their annual Easter Egg Hunt. They also request approval to place a sign in the park to let people know of the event from April 2 thru April 7<sup>th</sup>.

The Board reviewed the above requests together. A motion was then made by T. Prater to approve both of them with the usual insurance requirements. A second was provided by W. Zutali and the motion then passed by unanimous vote.

#### **OTHER BUSINESS:**

1. The Director informed the Board that Mr. Jim Pace had contacted him regarding a possible donation of a lot that he owns to the Park System.

The Board discussed the lot and the Director recommended that the Board not accept the lot. Mr Prater and Mr. Gordon recommended it be referred to Lisa Miller at Community Development to see if there was an interest in other areas of the city. A motion was then made by T. Prater to decline the proposed donation. A second was provided by W. Zutali and the motion then passed by unanimous vote.

2. Alzheimer's Association requesting to use the Stadium Park walking track and Shelter number 5 to hold a 5K Walk/Run on June 23d, 2012. The event will be hosted by the HOF Ruff Riders.

A motion to approve the request with an insurance requirement was made by T. Prater. A second was provided by W. Zutali and the motion then passed by unanimous vote.

3. The Canton Fire Department requesting to have constructed a concrete drive in West Park south of 9<sup>th</sup> Street to facilitate their pumper testing station. The Director told the Board that he had ran the plan through Traffic Engineering and they told him that they had no objections to the additional curb cuts to 9<sup>th</sup> Street as long as they were built to standard city specifications. They did mention the drive may need to be gated to prevent the use of it by others. A motion was made by T. Prater to approve the request if constructed to city specifications without gates. However, if problems arise they must then add gates. A second was provided by W. Zutali and the motion then passed by unanimous vote.
4. The Director reported to the Board that in the final 2012 budget recently submitted to council the Park System had another cut to it's budget. He stated he wanted the Board to know that if the budget holds there would be no summer help in the Park System. He explained that in the budget he had submitted for 2012 over 40,000 had been cut when the temporary budget came out in January. Since he had put in the budget about that same amount for summer help he did not figure there would be summer help unless the full budget saw that amount replaced. However, after reviewing the proposed full budget he saw that another 52,000 had been cut so at this time he did not see summer help for 2012 and is concerned about finishing the year within budget.

Ms. Sarver, of the OUR Neighborhood Association asked if they do not understand how important the Park System is to the city?

Mr. Gordon stated there were cuts across the board in the budget and that things were expected to get worse next year.

Ms. Sarver said she felt a lot of money had to have been saved in the street department due to the mild winter. Mr. Gordon stated all that would be looked at as time goes on.

5. Ms. Sarver then told the Board that her neighborhood association had again applied for a grant to do their "Friday Fun Days" activities at the Bernard Ave Playground this summer. She said the Park Staff had done a great job of keeping the park nice last year.
6. Mr. Gordon told the Board that the planning for the Canton Marathon was on going but there were lots of details and said everyone will have to be forgiving for this major first time event. Mr. Gordon was asked if there had been any talk about the reimbursement of city expenses? He stated that there had been talks along those lines.



Mr. Prater then made a motion for the Board to go into executive session to discuss personnel issues. A second was provided by W. Zutali. The motion was then passed by the following vote:

Mr. Zutali – Yes, Mr. Prater – Yes.

Sometime later a motion was made by T. Prater to return the Board to open session. A second was provided by W. Zutali and the motion then passed by the following vote:

Mr. Zutali – Yes, Mr. Prater – Yes.

Being no further business before the Board the meeting was adjourned at 6:00 p. m.

  
Andy Black, President  
Douglas V. Perry, Director/Secretary